

A New Name for *Mitra sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, 1811

BY

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(Plate 23)

FROM NEWLY-COLLECTED SPECIMENS, it has recently been my privilege to identify a mitrid form that has evidently been considered a lost species for many years. Described as *Mitra sanguinolenta* by LAMARCK in 1811 without accurate illustration or definite locality, it was later figured or discussed variously by KIENER (1839), KÜSTER (1841), DESHAYES (1844), REEVE (1844), SOWERBY (1874) and TRYON (1882). Of the five illustrations in these six works, only those of KIENER and SOWERBY depict the shell now known to be the holotype of *M. sanguinolenta*; the others represent *M. nubila* (GMELIN, 1791).

The strong doubts about the species' validity through the years may be seen in such remarks as those made by REEVE: "Lamarck's *Mitra sanguinolenta* appears to be a variety of this species [*M. versicolor* MARTYN: = *M. nubila* (GMELIN)], and not the shell figured for it by Kiener, which looks like a worn *M. texturata*"; by SOWERBY: "Considered doubtful as figured by Kiener and here copied"; and by TRYON: "This species is known to conchologists only through the type figured by Kiener; Lamarck himself, according to his synonymy, appears to have confounded it with *M. versicolor*" [= *M. nubila*].

Aside from the rarity of the species, two other very evident reasons for so much confusion appear as soon as one glances over the pertinent literature. The first problem is an error of semantics, relating to the supposed type locality of the species. LAMARCK originally stated: "Habite . . . probablement l'Océan austral." This should be translated literally as "South Sea," but subsequent authors corrupted this citation variously until it evolved into "Australian Sea" — which has no meaning for malacologists in any possible interpretation.

The second and more serious problem besetting this attractive species is the fact that LAMARCK unaccountably referred to CHEMNITZ' figure of *Voluta nubila* GMELIN, 1791 as the type figure of *Mitra sanguinolenta*, thus invalidly describing his new species as a synonym of an already-established form. Even though it seems probable that this erroneous citation of a type figure was only a printer's

error (the species immediately preceding *M. sanguinolenta* in LAMARCK's list of 80 new species [*M. versicolor*] also has *Voluta nubila* as its type figure), nevertheless the species Lamarck intended to describe as *M. sanguinolenta* has been without standing for more than 150 years — not because the error was undetected, but probably because the species was rare enough that no worker has been sufficiently motivated to straighten out the synonymy.

Early in 1964, Mrs. Orville Davis of Orlando, Florida obtained from beach boys at Mogadiscio, Somalia (presumably gleaned from dredge-tailings when the harbor was de-silted) four specimens of a mitrid that she could not identify. Two of these were sent to the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and were eventually forwarded to me for identification. A third specimen is said to be at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and the fourth was lost. Of the two shells sent to me for study, the smaller shell (Plate 23, Figures 1 and 2) seems to be almost an exact duplicate of the LAMARCK holotype of *Mitra sanguinolenta* presently in the collection of the Muséum Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (see Plate 23, Figure 3). The larger of the Somalia specimens (Plate 23, Figures 4 and 5) may represent an older, worn example of the same species, though its sculpture is entirely smooth, several early whorls are lacking, and the shape of the aperture seems slightly different.

According to Article 11 (d) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, a name published as a synonym is not available, and a new one should be provided. Therefore I propose the name

Mitra prosanguinolenta J. CATE

nom. nov. pro Mitra sanguinolenta LAMARCK, 1811

(see Plate 23, Figures 1 to 5)

1811. *M. sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, Ann. Mus. d'Hist. Nat., *Mitra*, p. 200, no. 9 (not figured)

1839. *M. sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, KIENER, Icon. Coq. Viv., *Mitra*, p. 19, pl. 14, no. 45

1841. [non] *M. sanguinolenta* KÜSTER, Neues Syst. Conchylien-Cab., Volutacea, p. 88, pl. 27, figs. 6 & 7
 1844. *M. sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, DESHAYES, Anim. s. vert., ed. II, p. 305 (not figured)
 1844. [non] *M. sanguinolenta* REEVE, Conch. Icon., pl. 1, figs. 2 & 3
 1874. *M. sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, SOWERBY, Thes. Conch. 4, pl. 11, fig. 160
 1882. [non] *M. sanguinolenta* TRYON, Man. Conch. 5, p. 113, pl. 33, fig. 15
 1962. *M. sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, J. CATE, The Veliger 5 (2), pl. 11, fig. 2 only
 1965. *M. sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, CERNOHORSKY, The Veliger 8 (2), p. 92 (not figured)

"*M. Ovato-fusiformis, alba, maculis flammulisque sanguineis picta; sulcis transversis excavato-punctatis; columellâ quinqueplicatâ.*

"Mus., No. 9.

"Habite . . . probablement l'Océan austral. Cette mitre, dont le Muséum possède un exemplaire, mais plus petit que celui de Chemniz, est fort différente de l'espèce qui précède [*M. versicolor* LAMARCK = *M. nubila* (GMELIN)]: elle est blanche et ornée de taches et de petite flammes longitudinales d'un rouge éclatant, qui la rendent comme sanguinolente. Sa superficie offre des sillons transverses munis de gros points enfoncés, et des rides ou très-petites côtes longitudinales, qui la font paroître un peu granuleuse. Cette espèce est fort jolie et très-rare. L'exemplaire du Muséum n'a que 33 millimètres de longueur."

It seems appropriate to designate a tentative type locality, at least until additional material is discovered; tentative, first, because the specimens recently collected were not living at the time, and second, because the Somalia area may not be indicative of the species' entire living range, but possibly of one end of it only. It is hoped that publication of these illustrations will bring to light further similar specimens from additional localities. Until such time, however, I hereby designate as type locality for

Mitra prosanguinolenta the harbor at Mogadiscio, Somalia, East Africa (2° 00' N. Lat., 45° 17' E. Long.).

It should be noted that the two specimens collected by Mrs. Davis are both beige-white in color, overlaid with a striking rust-red network of lines which are incised and punctate in the smaller specimen. The smaller shell more closely resembles the holotype because of the above-mentioned surface ornament, the presence of a white band around the periphery of the shell, and a shorter and more constricted aperture; it is possible that two different species are involved here, but there is no question that specimen 1, the AMNH shell, is the *Mitra sanguinolenta* of LAMARCK. The larger shell may be merely an older, slightly worn example.

Aside from REEVE's statement that KIENER's figure looked "like a worn *M. texturata*," (*Mitra prosanguinolenta* is less obscure than *M. texturata* LAMARCK, 1811, with smoother sculpture and a more produced spire), the only species with which *M. prosanguinolenta* may be readily compared is *M. puncticulata* LAMARCK, 1811; it is similar only in the suggestion of very slightly coronated sutures which are strongly developed in *M. puncticulata*, and in the surface ornament and pattern arrangement. However, in *M. prosanguinolenta* the outer lip is smooth and slightly effuse at the base, whereas *M. puncticulata* has a weakly crenulated lip and a straighter, relatively longer aperture. *Mitra prosanguinolenta* is brick-red and white, whereas *M. puncticulata* is predominantly orange, black, beige and white. Lamarck evidently also considered the two species perfectly distinct, for both were described as new species in the same paper without reference to the other.

Because the systematic arrangement of the Mitridae is presently undergoing revision, I have purposely not assigned *Mitra prosanguinolenta* to any subgenus, pending further investigation and a radular study of fresh material. Based on shell characters only, however, it seems to belong in *Mitra s. s.*

I wish to thank Mr. William Old and Mr. Anthony D'Attilio of the American Museum of Natural History

Statistics for the Specimens collected by Mrs. Davis are as follows:

	Specimen 1	Specimen 2
Illustrated on Plate 23	Figures 1 & 2	Figures 4 & 5
Length of shell	19.9 mm	35.4 mm
Greatest diameter	8.1 mm	13.1 mm
Length of aperture	11.5 mm	22.4 mm
Number of whorls	5, + 1½ nuclear whorls	4; apex missing
Present location	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.	Coll. Mrs. O. Davis



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Mitra prosanguinolenta J. CATE,
nom. nov. pro Mitra sanguinolenta LAMARCK, 1811

Figure 1: Ventral aspect of Specimen No. 1 (AMNH specimen) x 2

Figure 2: Dorsal aspect of the same shell x 2

Figure 3: Holotype of *Mitra sanguinolenta* LAMARCK

Photograph courtesy of and © by Nat. Mus. d'Hist. Nat., Paris x 1

Figure 4: Ventral aspect of Specimen No. 2 (Davis specimen) x 1

Figure 5: Dorsal aspect of the same shell x 1

(Except as noted, photographs are by Takeo Susuki)